

## GREETINGS FROM COOLIDGE SCHOOL

January 27, 2014

[www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge](http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/schools/coolidge)

Dear Families,

When I was a child, reading was one of my favorite pastimes. In fact, most of the time the world of books was more interesting to me than real life. I loved pretending that I too lived in a tree on a mountainside. I spent hours wondering if animals really could talk-somewhere. I also remember that neither my brother nor my cousins shared my enthusiasm. Rather than trade books, we traded shells, jokes, and stuffed animals. Still, when I had children, I assumed that my girls would be readers, just like me. After all, my husband loves to read, too- and our home was full of great stories. You know what they say about assuming; let's just say that it's taken much longer than I would have liked for my daughters to discover their favorite authors.

Fortunately, there's a new book out today to help guide the parents of reluctant readers. Even better, one of the authors is a member of the family! I couldn't be prouder. Check out *Book Smart: how to Develop and Support Successful, Motivated Readers* by Anne Cunningham and Jamie Zibulsky if you have the chance. There's also a helpful trailer at this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWd0xO66hAg>.

No matter the method, the cause is critical. When children become fluent readers by grade three, they become more successful students. Strong readers make for skillful writers, too. As a practical matter, children who read regularly are much easier to manage on wintry days when it's too cold to play outside!

Please persist in your efforts to support your young readers. Eventually, it works! In fact, the best motivation to encourage your reader comes from a Coolidge family. Last week when I asked families to share stories of success, I received one from a mother of a kindergartener. She wrote, "I thought you might like to hear about our 'Ah-ha' reading moment last night. We were reading *Oh, The Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss. Nate decided that he wanted to try reading it, and he read most of it. It somehow clicked because he kept hugging me and saying, "I'm READING! I'm READING!" At one point he said, "I feel like a grown-up!" and then "You're right Mama – it's so FUN!" He was beyond excited and stayed up late as we called grandparents to share the good news. He also said, "Once you know how to read, you'll never un-know how to read!" Here's hoping that joy lasts a lifetime.

Sincerely,

*Amy*

Amy Clouter  
Principal

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

<b>January 28</b>	<b>PTO Meeting, 7 pm in the Media Center</b>
January 29	Author April Prince Jones visits Grades 1 & 2
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Young Audience's <i>Abraham Lincoln</i> visits</b>
February 14	School Store
<b>February 17-21</b>	<b>Winter Break</b>
February 28	School Store

### **Please note MCAS dates for third and fourth grade:**

March 18	Gr. 4 long Comp
March 19 & 20	Gr. 3 ELA
March 25 & 26	Gr. 4 ELA
May 6 & 7	Gr. 3 Math
May 13 & 14	Gr. 4 Math

## **FROM THE NURSE:**

The cold weather and snow often make us want to conserve energy and stay in- side. Staying inside and being less active can lead to the “cold winter blahs”, feeling tired, lethargic and bored. This all leads to eating more and hibernating in front of the TV or computer.

A good way to shed those blahs is to get outside. There are many great outdoor activities to enjoy, such as sledding, skating, skiing, snowboarding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Cold weather can also present danger to children and adults so it is important to take precautions, here are a few safety tips.

- Dress in multiple layers with extra layers on legs, feet and hands.
- Wear warm hats, gloves/mittens and boots.
- Limit the amount of time outside to safe intervals, especially in extreme cold or high wind.
- Change out of wet clothing immediately and put dry clothing if going back outside.
- Sunscreen, children can get sunburn in the winter.
- Helmets are a must when children are skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling and skating.
- Always check the area for safety. Well away from snowplows, snow blowers, roads, fences and water.

If the weather isn't cooperating and outdoor activities are not an option here are a few suggestions, make a book, build an indoor clubhouse, make puppets and perform a puppet show, have an indoor picnic or tea party, play board games. Have fun and stay safe!

## **FYI**

1. **GOOD NEWS! BOKS will be running, starting tomorrow morning at 7:45.**

2. Please remember to practice safe driving habits in our parking lots. Going slow in the pick up and drop off line and taking that “extra look” is really important, especially in the winter season. Your care for our students and staff is appreciated.

3. Does your child enjoy Art? Wish they had more opportunities to create? The Coolidge PTO is happy to sponsor a Young Rembrandts drawing class at Coolidge! Young Rembrandts offers after school drawing classes for students in grades K-4, and we will be starting a 6 week session at Coolidge on Monday, February 10th. Class is 1 hour, once a week, and will be held 3:30pm - 4:30pm at the school. A blue registration form is coming home today in backpacks - please fill out and return with payment (\$60) to the school office. No drawing experience is necessary: we teach with a step by step methodology, and kids love our new lessons each week! More details are on the flyer, and for more information about this program visit us on the web at [www.youngrembrandts.com/swboston-centralma](http://www.youngrembrandts.com/swboston-centralma).



**Young Rembrandts**